



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

*Written Testimony Presented before the
Government Administration and Elections Committee*

In Re S.J No. 33

RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO CONVENE AN
ARTICLE V CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO OVERTURN THE UNITED STATES
SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN *CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION*

February 29, 2016

Statement of Michael J. Brandi, Executive Director & General Counsel
State Elections Enforcement Commission

Chairman Cassano and Chairman Jutila, Vice Chairs Gerratana and Alexander, Ranking Members Senator McLachlan and Representative Smith, and distinguished Committee members. I am Michael Brandi, the Executive Director & General Counsel of the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

I would like to present testimony about Senate Joint Resolution No. 33 to petition Congress to convene a constitutional convention to address *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related cases. We do not take a position for or against this resolution, but certainly agree that the recent federal court jurisprudence on campaign finance law has made regulation more difficult and allowed an unprecedented amount of money—disclosed and undisclosed—into our elections. Our response to this phenomenon has been to propose legislation, last session and this one, that would increase meaningful disclosure with respect to independent expenditures made in Connecticut elections. Our proposal would also further clarify the line between coordinated and independent spending, and address some of the changes made in Public Act 13-180 that weakened the independent spending disclosure statutes.

I know that this proposal is not before the Committee today, but thought that mentioning it was relevant to your consideration of S.J. No 33. The Commission's campaign finance bill offers a more immediate solution, within the ability of this legislature to adopt this session. We hope you will carefully consider the many benefits it offers for addressing the problems created by the *Citizens United* decision in Connecticut.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony.